

(d) Yes, Sir. An exclusive Department of Land Management has been established in AAI for monitoring/review of all land allotment and land dispute cases.

Entry of foreign airlines in domestic aviation

546. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of Ministers (GoM) has recommended entry of foreign airlines in domestic aviation and allowing 49 per cent foreign direct investment in Civil Aviation Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In the meeting held on 11.1.2001, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) had, *inter-alia*, recommended FDI upto 49% in the civil aviation sector on the automatic route and permission to foreign airlines to participate in the joint ventures subject to sectoral guidelines of the Civil Aviation Ministry. However, in its meeting held on 9.2.2001 to review some of the recommendations made in the earlier meeting held on 11.1.2001, GoM on FDI, *inter-alia*, decided not to recommended change in the existing policy of domestic air transport sector which permits upto 40% foreign equity and upto 100% Non Resident Indian (NRI)/Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCB) equity participation but prohibits direct or indirect foreign airlines equity.

Upgradation of Bhubaneswar airport

547. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports where facilities for handling the export and import of cargo are available;

(b) whether Government propose to provide Cargo handling facilities at Bhubaneswar airport;

(c) if so, by when; and

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(d) the steps taken to upgrade the Bhubaneswar airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There are following sixteen airports in the country where facilities for handling export and import of cargo are available :

Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Nagpur, Guwahati, Luckhnow, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Jaipur, Pune, Trivandrum, Varanasi, Amritsar, Srinagar and Kochi.

(b) and (c) At present, the Customs are managing a small facility for processing export and import cargo at this airport. This facility is in operation since 2.8.1995.

(d) Bhubaneswar airport is being upgraded for operation of Airbus 300 class of aircraft. The existing runway is being extended from '7440 to 9000' at a cost of Rs. 12.62 crores. AAI has also constructed a new passenger terminal at a cost of Rs. 17.77 crores which is capable of handling 500 passengers at a time and provided with all modern passenger amenities. Modern navigational and landing aids have been provided for all-weather operations at this airport. The new Terminal Building is also provided with facilities to handle limited international operations.

Employment of Relatives of High Officials in Private Airlines

548. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many relatives of high officials in Indian Airlines, Air India and Airports Authority of India are employed in private airlines which are competing with public sector airlines;

(b) if so, the number of such employees; and

(c) whether Government propose to impose embargo on such employment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines, Air India and Airports